

Promised Land Episodes Filmed in Lehi

Episode 104: "The Prodigy" which was first broadcast on September 24, 1996

Shot in late August and early September 1996. The exterior scenes showing the Greenes driving through "Evanston, Wyoming" were actually shot in Lehi, Utah. The scenes featuring the campground and the actual Graham Riley Music Festival were shot in Liberty Park in Salt Lake City. The interiors of RJ's Music Store were done on a soundstage in Salt Lake City. (Everyone was really thrilled to have [Joe Walsh](#) in the episode. I mean, wow! Joe Walsh!) We also used a public library on the southwest side of Salt Lake City and we used the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

Episode 122: "Civil Wars" which was first broadcast on May 6, 1997

This was our first episode back in the Salt Lake City area, filmed from March 27 to April 9, 1997. Near the beginning of filming, Northern Utah was hit by a significant snow storm, which made the locations a little harder to deal with than we'd originally planned. We were able to use a road in East Canyon (between Salt Lake City and Park City). The episode called for the Greene's Suburban to be stranded with two other, wrecked cars on a lonely stretch of road. Well, lucky for us, the East Canyon road is closed to traffic each year from around November 1st until the middle of May. So it was easy for us to stage a car accident and leave the vehicles in the road for a few days while we shot the episode. The interiors of the Airstream trailer and the cabin where Erasmus and Josh attempt to use a telephone were sets built on our soundstage... many miles away from the East Canyon exteriors but seamlessly incorporated into the show. Hospital scenes were shot at the V.A. hospital in Salt Lake City. Exteriors featuring Russell and Dinah in the semi truck were shot near Coalville, Echo, Lehi and Copperton, Utah. We shot some of the night exteriors in very remote places, far away from city lights. This made it very easy to see the Hale-Bopp comet, which was at the peak of its visibility at the time.

Episode 216: "Two For The Road" which was first broadcast on February 26, 1998

Filmed from January 27 to February 5, 1998. This starts with Joe Greene getting released from prison on a weekend pass. We filmed the prison exteriors at the real Utah State Prison in the south part of the Salt Lake Valley. In order to get on the prison grounds, each crew member had to submit personal information so that officials could conduct a background check. (In the past, members of other film crews have actually been arrested right there at the prison because the background checkers found something!) Then, before we left the grounds, we had to open our trunks so they could see that we weren't hiding anything. It just so happens that, earlier that morning, I bought a saxophone and I had a big saxophone case in my back seat. The prison guards didn't insist on searching the case. (I didn't want them to find some excuse to confiscate my new saxophone!)

We filmed the prison interior, waiting room scenes at an Army camp a few miles from the prison. There was a vacant bunk room there with plain, gray walls and it was fairly easy to make it look like a prison (Perhaps we need to do something better for the men and women of the Armed Forces). In the first scene in which Russell and Joe converse, Joe says "...I really get ticked off when I miss my Anger Management class." It was a very dry joke. But did you know that we

filmed it the other way? Yes, we filmed a version where he used another word instead of "ticked" and, as expected, that was **not** the version which was broadcast (The new line was dubbed in later).

The train station was a building south of the Utah State Fairpark. The bus depot was many miles away in the town of Lehi. Most of the footage of the bus traveling was also shot around Lehi, but the cafe where the bus stops was really a truck stop on the west side of the Salt Lake Valley. That building did double duty, because the other half of the building was used as the truck stop seen later in the episode (where Joe has to make a telephone call to check back in with the prison). There's a scene in which Russell and Joe are hitch-hiking. The actor who plays the truck driver who picks them up also had a small role as a banjo salesman in Episode 104 "The Prodigy"). The scenes inside the semi cab were done inside a real semi, but it was parked in a dark garage at the time. We shook the camera around a bit and used water and lighting effects inside the garage to make it look like they were actually traveling.

This episode features the first appearance of the inside of Erasmus' garage. Our Art Department built the garage interior set on our soundstage and, of course, we used the same Erasmus house interiors we've always used. The inside of Erasmus' garage is seen again in the season premiere of Season 3. *However*, the garage we used in Season 3 was the real garage at the real Erasmus House location in Springville

Episodes 222 and 223: "A Hand Up is Never a Handout" Parts 1 and 2, which was first broadcast May 7 and May 14, 1998

Once again, we were aiming for a "big finish" as another season of *Promised Land* came to a close. And there were lots of stories to tell, requiring us to travel all over the place! There was the Utah State Prison (where Joe is released), a lonely road near Lehi, Utah (where Joe and Russell are driving away from the prison) and a cemetery in Lehi (where they visit their father's grave). We used Erasmus' house again (exterior in Springville and interiors on our sound stage). We used the same hospital which we had used for "Designated Driver" and "When Darkness Falls". (Claire's doomed baby was really a rubber doll... but it was spooky how realistic it looked! Still, the fact that it was all fake makes Wendy Phillips' and Gerald McRaney's performances that much more impressive.) We filmed at a real Habitat for Humanity work site in Salt Lake City and, then, the last scenes filmed for this episode were shot at the actual Federal Building site in Oklahoma City. It was a hectic schedule with lots of travel but, somehow, it all came together. In the middle of our schedule, the entire cast of the show went to Oklahoma City to participate in a memorial service for the victims of the Federal Building bombing. A few crew members were there to film Celeste Holm, Austin O'Brien and Sarah Schaub (as their *Promised Land* characters) at that memorial service and the footage was used in our episode. Then, after all of our Utah work was complete, those three cast members returned to Oklahoma with some of our regular *Promised Land* crew to film the other Oklahoma scenes. Speaking of the Utah work, our production company was able to contribute money and manpower to a couple of Habitat for Humanity homes (There's some information about that on the official *Promised Land* web site). The father of the real family which moved into one of the homes being built appeared in the episode as an extra, which was neat. It was nice that, after all our Hollywood make-believe left the neighborhood, we left behind a couple of real homes for a couple of thankful families.